

IURC News Release

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IURC TAKES STEPS TO OPEN THE TELEPHONE MARKET

Today, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission took another step to make reliable telephone and advanced services more available to Hoosiers in every corner of the state.

In Cause No. 40611 S1, the Commissioners address pricing elements to ensure that competitive local exchange carriers (CLECS) have reasonable access to the incumbent's networks they need to grow business in Indiana.

The market shows that cost issues can substantially impact the ability of competitors to enter the market. This Commission is convinced this order is necessary to provide Hoosier ratepayers with choice as telephone competition moves to the next level. This order:

- Opens end-to-end access to SBC's fiber-fed digital loops.
- Provides a method for competitors to provide xDSL service through SBC's remote terminals.
- Determines the cost methodology for cleaning up loop lines used to provide DSL.
- Sets parameters for the qualification test that is done to see if a line is DSL capable.
- Institutes line sharing and splitting, making it possible for customers to choose to have one company provide voice service and another provide DSL access to the Internet. (Consistent with SBC/ ATT arbitration).
- Allows access at a fair price to SBC's customer information database, which is used by competitors to provide Caller ID, directory and operator services. (Currently competitors are charged each time they access the information).
- Prevents SBC from charging competitors more than it charges smaller incumbent carriers for access to its Emergency Services database.

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